

Message Text

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SLBJECT: RESPONSE TO FOURTH OF JULY MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT FROM USSR SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM CHAIRMAN ;. V. PODGORNYY

1. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM PODGORNYY FOLLOWS FYI:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND TO YOU PERSONALLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THIS ANNIVERSARY IS A REFLECTION OF AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE LIFE OF YOUR CON;UNTRY, WHICH IS ALSO DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USA AND UNCLASSIFIED

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RUSSIA.

THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATES THAT THE INTEREST OF BOTH NATIONS, AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF THE WORLD AS A WHOLE, WERE ALWAYS WELL SERVED WHEN THESE RELATIONS WERE BASED UPON MUTUAL RESPECT, EQUALITY, AND A STRIVING FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION. IT IS NOT ACCIDENTAL, THEREFORE, THAT THE SIGNIFICANT TURN FOR THE BETTER IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS PRODUCED IMPORTANT POSITIVE RESULTS, HAS HELPED TO LESSEN THE DANGER OF WAR, AND HAS STRENGTHENED INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND PEACE.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT, GUIDED BY THESE LOFTY AND NOBLE AIMS, OUR COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THEIR RELATIONSHIP ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A JOINTLY ELABORATED POLICY. RESPECTFULLY, N. PODGORNYY.

2. FOLLOWING RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO PODGORNYY:

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE. AS THE UNITED STATES BEGINS ITS THIRD CENTURY, AMERICANS ARE REDEDICATING THEMSELVES TO THE GREAT PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, DIGNITY, AND EQUALITY SET FORTH BY OUR FOUNDING FATHERS AND TO THE SEARCH FOR A LASTING AND STABLE WORLD ORDER IN WHICH ALL MEN CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND JUSTICE. WE SHARE YOUR HOPE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOAL OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD.

3. NO RELEASE INTENDED, BUT NO OBJECTION IF RECIPIENT WISHES TO DO SO. ROBINSON

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